IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 29 and 32, and add new Claims 35-38, as follows.

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) ~~In a~~ A method of manufacturing an optical element by forming~~, on a first diffraction grating,~~ a second diffraction grating on a first diffraction grating, ~~the basis of molding,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

performing alignment of a mold to be used for ~~the~~ molding ~~of~~ the second diffraction grating, by engaging a recess alignment mark provided on the mold for the second diffraction grating with a protrusion alignment mark provided on a substrate on which the first diffraction grating is formed; and

molding, once the mold to be used for the second diffraction grating is aligned with the first diffraction grating by engagement of the recess alignment mark with the protrusion alignment mark, the second diffraction grating on the first diffraction grating.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) ~~In a~~ A method of manufacturing an optical element by forming~~, on a first diffraction grating,~~ a second diffraction grating on a first diffraction grating, ~~the basis of molding,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

performing alignment of a mold to be used for ~~the~~ molding ~~of~~ the second diffraction grating, by engaging a protrusion alignment mark provided on the mold for the second diffraction grating with a recess alignment mark provided on a substrate on which the first diffraction grating is formed; and

molding, once the mold to be used for the second diffraction grating is aligned with the first diffraction grating by engagement of the protrusion alignment mark with the recess alignment mark, the second diffraction grating on the first diffraction grating.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein the first diffraction grating and the protrusion alignment mark are formed on the substrate on the basis of molding.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 32, wherein the first diffraction grating and the recess alignment mark are formed on the substrate on the basis of molding.

35. (Newly Added) A method of manufacturing an optical element by forming a second diffraction grating on a first diffraction grating, said method comprising the steps of:

molding, on a substrate, the first diffraction grating and a protrusion alignment mark;

performing alignment of a mold to be used for molding the second diffraction grating by engaging a recess alignment mark on the mold for the second diffraction grating with the protrusion alignment mark molded on the substrate in the step of molding the first diffraction grating; and

molding, once the mold to be used for the second diffraction grating is aligned with the first diffraction grating by engagement of the recess alignment mark with the protrusion alignment mark, the second diffraction grating on the first diffraction grating.

36. (Newly Added) A method of manufacturing an optical element by forming a second diffraction grating on a first diffraction grating, said method comprising the steps of:

molding, on a substrate, the first diffraction grating and a recess alignment mark;

performing alignment of a mold to be used for molding the second diffraction grating by engaging a protrusion alignment mark on the mold for the second diffraction grating with the recess alignment mark molded on the substrate in the step of molding the first diffraction grating; and

molding, once the mold to be used for the second diffraction grating is aligned with the first diffraction grating by engagement of the protrusion alignment mark with the recess alignment mark, the second diffraction grating on the first diffraction grating.

37. (Newly Added) A method according to Claim 35, wherein, in the step of molding the first diffraction grating, the first diffraction grating and the protrusion alignment mark are molded on the substrate using a single mold.

38. (Newly Added) A method according to Claim 36, wherein, in the step of molding the first diffraction grating, the first diffraction grating and the recess alignment mark are molded on the substrate using a single mold.